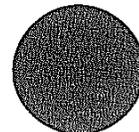


If you have issues viewing or accessing this file contact us at [NCJRS.gov](http://NCJRS.gov).

Note: Table 10 and several pages of the Exhibits are missing from original copy.

112444



**FOSTER FAMILY CHARACTERISTICS RELATED TO MALTREATMENT  
OF CHILDREN WHILE IN CARE**

Patricia Ryan  
Emily Jean McFadden  
Peggy Wiencek

**INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**  
Eastern Michigan University  
Ypsilanti, Michigan  
(313)487-0372

**NCJRS**

JUL 95 1988

Presented at the **FAMILY VIOLENCE RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

Durham, New Hampshire  
July 6, 1987

**ACQUISITIONS**

The project described in this paper was funded by the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, ACYP-HHS.

During the last few decades, there has been increased awareness of the extent to which children in our society are abused, sexually exploited or in other ways mistreated by their parents and other adult caretakers (Kempe, et. al., 1962; American Humane Association, 1981). Typically the preferred intervention is to work with the family either to alleviate family dysfunction (Green, et. al., . 1974; Geismore, 1978) or to cure individual pathologies giving rise to abuse (Spinetta and Regler, 1972; Visteral, 1978). In some cases, protection of the child necessitates temporarily removal from parental influence. the preferred alternative in most such cases is to place the child in a family foster home (Horejsi, 1978; Kadushin, 1980).

It is ironic that some of these children are further maltreated while in family foster care (Bolton, et al., 1981; Ryan, 1983). Maltreatment in foster care not only further jeopardizes children who have been mistreated by their parents but opens the entire system of child welfare to question (Gil, 1979). A few small studies have identified foster family characteristics related to abuse. Dawson's (1983) study of abuse reports against family foster homes in Ontario found social isolation, relocation, authoritarian discipline methods, family discord and change in working hours were all factors related to child maltreatment in foster care. A New York study (The Vera Institute of Justice study, 1981) found single foster mothers over-represented in the cases of substantiated abuse, and another study (Tobias, 1982) identified single parent family foster homes and those with very young mothers, those with employed mothers, and those where the mother had been abused as a child as more likely to be abusive. None of the father's characteristics reported in this study were significantly related to abuse. Bolton's (1981) study in Arizona found foster parents to be older, with higher family incomes, fewer income supports, higher rates of marriage and with a higher proportion of non-Anglo adults as compared to a sample of abusers in the general population.

As these studies indicate, the reasons underlying maltreatment in family foster care are diverse. Some may be the same as those underlying violence and child abuse in other types of families (Vera Institute, 1981). These range from specific individual pathologies to interpersonal interaction patterns to societal and cultural norms supporting violence and intentional harm to children (Gelles, 1978; Gil, 1975; Parke, 1977). A society which places heavy emphasis on violence and which supports the belief that children must be beaten for their own good gives general support for child abuse (Parke, 1977). Additionally societal practices fail to provide economic supports to families, isolate families and make it difficult for some families to have the necessary resources for the healthy growth and development of children (Pelton, 1981). Some parents have little knowledge of parenting skills, abused by their own parents they continue the same way. The ways in which such patterns result in child abuse, scape-goating, and incest are well documented (Bender, 1976; Green, 1978; McFadden, 1978).

Although foster families may not be as vulnerable to some to these factors as other families, they may be more vulnerable to others. Board payments for foster children are below the costs of keeping the children stretching family resources. Many needed services are unavailable to children in foster care. The foster family may find they are excluded from neighborhood activities if their acceptance of foster children is perceived as a threat. Few states make provisions for upgrading foster parents' knowledge about child development or improving their parenting skills (Warren, 1981).

Foster parents are exposed to the same cultural violence as others in our society. Most of them received physical discipline as children and many use physical punishment with their own children (Straus and Gelles, 1980). Some foster parents may withhold meals or resort to other practices that affect the health and well being of children in their care. Although many states, not all, have regulations against spanking and other forms of physical punishment, many foster parents feel they should treat foster children just like their own; and that includes spanking. Such punishment constitutes maltreatment when it is counter to the agency's policy.

Foster families may be a select group within the general population of families but they still possess the vulnerabilities common to all families. These vulnerabilities are often exacerbated or compounded by the rigors of fostering. Foster families take on responsibilities which far exceed those of normal parenting, and encounter stressful situations engendered by the foster parenting role and lack of resources and supports from the agency. It is often difficult to obtain adequate medical services for the child as fewer providers are willing to accept Medicaid. Agency monitoring represents an intrusion within the boundaries of family life. Foster families rarely feel that they have adequate input or decision making in the planning for the child. Feelings of frustration and helplessness often accompany the fostering role.

Families which are obviously abusive or inappropriate are usually excluded from fostering through the screening and home study which are part of the foster home licensing process. However, a chronic shortage of foster homes acts as a countervailing force to efforts to maintain or improve standards.

This paper examines some of these foster family characteristics in relationship to various forms of maltreatment of children in care. The major family variables examined in relationship to maltreatment of children are: Foster parents' age, education, occupation, race and marital status, number of foster family's own children in the home, number of foster children in the home and working status of the foster mother.

#### Sampling and Data Collection

The total sample consisted of 164 reports of an incident of maltreatment of children in family foster care during the period of January 1, 1979 thru December 31, 1984 in North Carolina, North Dakota, and selected counties of Michigan, New Mexico and Texas. These five states are diverse in geographic location population size and density, racial composition, and major economic base. They also reflect variations in percentage of children in foster care, differing rates of allegations of maltreatment against licensed family foster homes and diverse policies defining child abuse and neglect and different systems for handling allegations.

The data was abstracted from case records including:

- a) the complaint petition and abuse investigation report,
- b) the child's file, and
- c) the foster family's record.

Although random sampling techniques were used to the extent possible, each state presented idiosyncratic problems which might influence the extent to which randomness was achieved. The greatest difficulty was with the development of sampling frames that included the entire universe of appropriate cases (i.e., all alleged incidents of maltreatment of children living in family foster homes reported during the period 1979-1984 in each agency). Differences in the degree of centralization of records, different systems of data retrieval and differential ability to retrieve records, made it impossible to ascertain the extent to which cases of alleged maltreatment of children in family foster care were missing from the records supplied by the agencies and thus from the sampling frame.

Despite these problems, this sampling frame probably constitutes the most comprehensive list of allegations of maltreatment of children in family foster care available in the selected areas during the appropriate time period.

#### Reliability of Data Sources

It is difficult to determine the accuracy and completeness of the data retrieved from case records since the agency records they used contain material entered by agency staff that is not systematically checked for accuracy or objectivity. The analysis of such records has both strengths and weaknesses (Bush, 1984; Webb et al., 1981; Bailey, 1978). These data are non-reactive in the sense that they are collected after the fact and there is no way in which the data may be changed or contaminated by the research process. They provide information from the individuals involved in the investigation of incidents of maltreatment and those who were interviewed within a short time of the event. As many of these people are no longer accessible, such information would be difficult or impossible to collect by other means. Analysis of these data are non-intrusive of personal privacy and there is no risk of resurrecting traumatic situations.

Unfortunately, we can not assume that the documents constitute an accurate record of what occurred either before the event (foster home licensing record and child's record) or during the incident of maltreatment. Because of the nature of the records, there is a high likelihood that individuals may distort, omit or even misrepresent information. Caseworkers are necessarily selective in what they include. Reports of maltreatment may or may not be based on solid evidence. Since the information might constitute evidence for decertification of the home, a criminal action against a family member or a liability suit against the agency, the participants have good reason to distort or even falsify the evidence. On the other hand, because of the legal import of this information, there is pressure for the investigators to include as much accurate information as possible. These records are also selective. In many instances, maltreatment in foster care goes undetected, and some forms of maltreatment are more likely to be detected and thus reported more frequently.

Similarly the licensing record is based on information the family provides at the time of their initial application and for renewal of certification. This information is supplemented by a home study. The family may not report accurately on those things they feel would jeopardize their certification. Workers responsible for the home study may either not ask for certain information or not record it accurately. In some cases, workers may deliberately exclude information if they think it might prevent licensing of a family they feel would do a good job. Even when the original information is accurate and reasonably complete, it may not be updated to include changes in the family's situation.

The independent variables used in this analysis are relatively straight forward and fairly likely to be accurate. Although there may be some distortion in age, education and occupation, marital status, number of children in the home and number of foster children in the home are highly likely to be accurate. Unfortunately the same claim can not be made for the dependent variable: likelihood of and type of maltreatment.

### Maltreatment Categories

The major dependent variable for much of this analysis is "type of maltreatment." The 164 investigations uncovered 481 allegations of mistreatment. There were considerable variations between and within agencies in the definitions of abuse and neglect and criteria for substantiation of allegations. Definitions of what constitutes maltreatment differ from state to state and from agency to agency. For instance in one state in the sample, the child protection act defines physical abuse solely as those behaviors likely to result in death, permanent injury or disfigurement of the child. Thus beatings on the buttocks resulting in bruises would not constitute physical abuse in that state. In several cases such behavior on the part of foster parents was found to be "inappropriate punishment" and a finding of "neglect" or "emotional abuse" was entered into the record. In most agencies there were several cases where the investigation focused on only some of the alleged maltreatments and there was no finding as to whether additional reported maltreatment had occurred. In a few cases, the child was removed after the allegation and there was no investigation, especially if the family decided not to continue fostering for the agency. Consequently, any agency determination as to the likelihood that the maltreatment had occurred was non-standardized and often incomplete, making analysis impossible using the finding in the record.

Consequently an inter-rater judgmental procedure was used to determine the likelihood that the alleged behavior had occurred in each incident. Three raters used detailed summaries of the allegations and investigations and independently rated the likelihood that the alleged behavior occurred. Each allegation of maltreatment was ranked on a five point scale from "very likely to have happened" to "very unlikely to have happened." A middle category of "not ascertained" was used when there was no way to tell from the record if a behavior had or had not occurred. A ranking of "very likely to have happened" usually meant the foster parent admitted the behavior, that there were several independent witnesses, a physician determined that injury to the child resulted from deliberate abuse or the alleged perpetrator was being prosecuted for the alleged behavior. Raters maintained an overall inter-rater reliability of 80%, and in no case did any particular rater's score differ by more than 1 from the composite score.

## Index Construction

Each case was then placed in one of the following categories:

**Neglect and Emotional Abuse Only:** This category included all those cases in which at least one form of neglect or emotional abuse was ranked as likely or very likely and no other type of maltreatment was so ranked. Children in the cases in this category showed signs of physical or other types of neglect or there was evidence that a foster parent had behaved in such a way as to cause emotional harm. Examples would be threatening the child, swearing at the child, or making nasty comments about the child's family. Some cases in which the child had an unexplained injury that was not determined to be deliberate were included in this category if the injury was of such a nature that appropriate foster parent supervision should have prevented the injury.

**Sexual Maltreatment:** This category includes those cases in which a family member made sexual advances toward a foster child. It includes all form of sexualized behavior which could be categorized as exploitive including various types of fondling and genital or anal penetration or oral-genital contact.

**Physical Maltreatment Without Mark or Injury:** Cases in which there was at least one form of physical contact which was deliberate and could have caused pain or harm to the child was ranked as likely or very likely but the child had no marks or injuries attributed to the contact were placed in this category as were cases of other types of punishment involving physical discomfort that ordinarily would not be considered the bases for opening a child protection case.

**Physical Abuse With Mark or Injury:** At least one form of behavior resulted in the child having bruises or more serious injury. A case with a child with such a indicator was placed in this category and not the previous one even if additional behaviors not resulting in a mark or injury had occurred. This category also includes cases in which a child had been subjected to forms of punishment causing serious physical discomfort (e.g., forced to drink urine).

**Maltreatment Not Ascertained:** No form of maltreatment listed was ranked as likely or very likely to have happened and for at least one alleged behavior it could not be determined whether this behavior occurred.

**No Maltreatment Likely:** Only children for whom all of the alleged behaviors were ranked as unlikely or very unlikely were placed in this category.

"Neglect and emotional abuse," "maltreatment not ascertained," and "maltreatment unlikely" are mutually exclusive and children in these categories are not found in any other category. "Physical abuse without mark or injury" and "physical abuse with mark or injury" are also mutually exclusive. One child was determined to have suffered both sexual maltreatment and physical maltreatment and this case was coded in both categories so that tables analyzing these data have an N of 165.

## Data Analysis

Tables 1 through 11 present the relationship between a variety of family characteristics and types of maltreatment. Where appropriate chi-square was calculated comparing expected and observed frequencies between the sub-sample of cases in which some type of maltreatment was likely and the sub-sample of maltreatment unlikely for the various categories of the independent variable. There does not appear to be a significant relationship for any of these variables.

In addition to differences in family characteristics that might differentiate families where children were maltreated and those families where children were probably not maltreated, the analysis also attempted to identify family characteristics that differentiate between different types of maltreatment. For instance those family characteristics related to minor types of physical maltreatment might not be that different from those characteristics of those judged here to be unlikely to have maltreated a child. Since the types of behavior included here are very prevalent in this society, many of the latter had probably engaged in similar behaviors with some child if not at the time of the report (Strauss and Gelles, 1980). Also the family characteristic associated with physical maltreatment might be quite different than those associated with sexual maltreatment (Pinkelhor, 1986).

---

Tables 1 - 11 about here

---

In order to determine the extent to which interaction among the independent variables might repress a relationship with maltreatment categories, logit model using log linear analysis was used in attempt to identify a parsimonious model that considered marital status, presence of foster parents' own children in the home, foster mother's employment status and each type of maltreatment. Each of the independent variable was dichotomized as follows:

Marital status: married, not married  
Foster mother: employed, not employed  
Presence of own children in home: some, none

The dependent variables were:

Some abuse likely, no abuse likely  
Sexual abuse likely, no abuse likely  
Physical abuse without marks likely, no abuse likely  
Physical abuse with marks likely, no abuse likely  
Neglect or emotional abuse likely, no abuse likely

The analysis was repeated using dicotomies consisting of each category of maltreatment against the remainder of the sample.<sup>2</sup> A set of hierarchical models were compared by examining the reduction  $X^2$  relative to the reduction in degrees of freedom. With one exception, no models were found that were preferred to the model of independence.

The exception was the analysis of sexual maltreatment. Since most of the single foster parents were women, this finding is not surprising and is consistent with numerous studies that report that males are much more likely to be reported for sexual maltreatment of children than females (c.f. Finkelhor, 1986). This analysis is presented here in Table 12.

---

Table 12 here

---

Conclusions:

This analysis fails to identify any significant relationship between a number of family characteristics and either the likelihood of maltreatment or a specific type of maltreatment with the exception of the relationship between marital status and sexual abuse. Although further analysis of these variables may identify an underlying pattern, it is clear that there is no easy answer for agency staff wishing to predict the likelihood that particular types of foster families may maltreat a child in their care with the possible exception of single foster mothers being less likely to sexually abuse children. However, this finding merely underscores the well documented finding that males are more likely to be reported as sexual abusers.

This study collected data on a number of other family variables including various measures of family stress. Unfortunately the number of cases in which such information is available is small and quantitative analysis may not be very fruitful. However, preliminary analysis does support Bolton's (1981) findings that characteristics of foster families against who an allegation of maltreatment is substantiated are very different than those of other families who abuse.

An important conclusion that arises from this analysis is the importance of staff monitoring if children are to be protected while in family foster care. The extent to which foster families differ from the usual population of abusers may lead staff to assume that maltreatment is highly unlikely. However, the high level of stress engendered by the process of fostering and the difficult behaviors the children bring with them (McFadden, et al., 1986) may combine to produce behaviors atypical of a given foster family's usual coping reactions. Only consistent monitoring and close observation can reduce the risk for children in family foster care.

73:21

TABLE 1

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER FAMILY TYPE AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER FAMILY TYPE										TOTAL
	SING FP NO NAT	SING FP ALL NC CUT	SING FP ALL NC OLDER	SING FP ALL NC YOUNGER	SING FP NC INTEGRAT	TWO FPS NO NAT	TWO FPS ALL NC CUT	TWO FPS NC OLDER	TWO FPS NC YOUNGER	TWO FPS NC INTEGRAT	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	25.0%	15.4%	20.0%	0.0%	15.4%	18.2%	3.9%	17.6%	5.6%	21.4%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	0.0%	15.4%	13.3%	0.0%	0.0%	27.3%	15.4%	17.6%	22.2%	21.4%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	0.0%	15.4%	13.3%	0.0%	23.1%	18.2%	15.4%	23.5%	27.8%	28.6%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	50.0%	7.7%	13.3%	66.7%	30.8%	27.3%	38.5%	11.8%	27.8%	10.7%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	75.0%	53.8%	60.0%	66.7%	69.2%	90.9%	73.1%	70.6%	83.3%	82.1%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	25.0%	23.1%	20.0%	0.0%	15.4%	9.1%	15.4%	14.7%	11.1%	7.1%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	0.0%	23.1%	20.0%	33.3%	15.4%	0.0%	11.5%	14.7%	5.6%	10.7%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.1%	99.9%	100.0%	100.1%	100.1%	100.1%	99.9%	100.1%	99.9%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	4	13	15	3	13	11	26	34	18	28	165

TABLE 2

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER FATHER'S AGE AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER FATHER'S AGE						TOTAL
	30 OR LESS	31-45	46-60	OVER 60	NOT ASCERTAINED	NO FOSTER FATHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	7.1%	16.3%	14.3%	11.8%	0.0%	16.7%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	14.3%	22.4%	21.4%	23.5%	0.0%	2.4%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	21.4%	28.6%	16.7%	23.5%	0.0%	14.3%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	28.6%	18.4%	19.0%	17.6%	100.0%	26.2%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	71.4%	85.7%	71.4%	76.5%	100.0%	59.5%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	7.1%	8.2%	16.7%	17.6%	0.0%	19.0%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	21.4%	6.1%	11.9%	5.9%	0.0%	21.4%	12.7%
TOTAL	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	14	49	42	17	1	42	165

$\chi^2=2.44$

d.f.=3

$p>.05$

TABLE 3

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER MOTHER'S AGE AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER MOTHER'S AGE						TOTAL
	30 OR LESS	31-45	46-60	OVER 60	NOT ASCERTAINED	NO FOSTER MOTHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	15.8%	13.1%	18.8%	0.0%	0.0%	16.6%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	10.5%	19.7%	9.4%	28.6%	0.0%	50.0%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	15.8%	26.2%	20.3%	7.1%	0.0%	16.6%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	31.6%	19.7%	18.8%	35.7%	100.0%	0.0%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	73.7%	78.7%	67.2%	71.4%	100.0%	83.3%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	10.5%	11.4%	17.2%	14.3%	0.0%	16.6%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	15.8%	9.8%	15.6%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	99.9%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	99.8%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	19	61	64	14	1	6	165

$\chi^2=1.35$

d.f.=3

$p>.05$

TABLE 4

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER FATHER'S EDUCATION AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER FATHER'S EDUCATION					TOTAL
	LESS THAN 12 YEARS	HIGH SCHOOL GRAD	OVER 12 YEARS	NOT ASCERTAINED	NO FOSTER FATHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	20.0%	10.3%	10.0%	21.4%	16.7%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	16.7%	25.6%	22.5%	14.3%	2.4%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	16.7%	28.2%	20.0%	28.6%	14.3%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	26.7%	20.5%	15.0%	21.4%	26.2%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	80.0%	84.7%	67.5%	85.7%	59.5%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	10.0%	10.3%	17.5%	7.1%	19.0%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	10.0%	5.1%	15.0%	7.1%	21.4%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	30	39	40	14	42	165

$\chi^2=1.67$

d.f.=2

p&gt;.05

TABLE 5

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER MOTHER'S EDUCATION AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER MOTHER'S EDUCATION					TOTAL
	LESS THAN 12 YEARS	HIGH SCHOOL GRAD	OVER 12 YEARS	NOT ASCERTAINED	NO FOSTER MOTHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	15.9%	10.2%	13.3%	23.8%	16.7%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	2.3%	18.4%	22.2%	19.0%	50.0%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	18.2%	26.5%	17.8%	19.0%	16.7%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	25.0%	16.3%	24.4%	28.6%	0.0%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	61.4%	71.4%	77.8%	90.5%	83.3%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	18.2%	16.3%	11.1%	4.8%	16.7%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	20.5%	12.2%	11.1%	4.8%	0.0%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.1%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	100.1%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	44	49	45	21	6	165

$$\chi^2=1.38$$

$$d.f.=2$$

$$p>.05$$

TABLE 6

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER MOTHER RACE AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER MOTHER'S RACE					TOTAL
	WHITE	BLACK	OTHER	NOT AS-CERTAINED	NO FOSTER MOTHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	12.8%	14.5%	30.0%	0.0%	16.7%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	23.3%	6.5%	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	22.1%	17.7%	30.0%	0.0%	16.7%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	23.2%	24.2%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	81.4%	62.9%	60.0%	100.0%	83.3%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	9.3%	21.0%	10.0%	0.0%	16.7%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	9.3%	16.1%	30.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	86	62	10	1	6	165

$$\chi^2=4.95$$

d.f.=2

P&gt;.05

TABLE 7

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER FATHER'S OCCUPATION AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER FATHER'S OCCUPATION									TOTAL
	HOME-MAKER	PRO-FESSIO-NAL	PERSONAL & SERVICE	SKILLED	UN/SEMI-SKILLED	OTHER	UNEMPLOYED/RETIRED/DISABLED	NOT ASCERTAINED	NO FOSTER FATHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	50.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	19.5%	8.3%	20.0%	0.0%	16.7%	14.5%
SEXUAL ABUSE	0.0%	25.0%	60.0%	25.0%	12.2%	25.0%	20.0%	20.0%	2.4%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	0.0%	8.3%	20.0%	33.3%	24.4%	19.4%	30.0%	40.0%	14.3%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	50.0%	16.7%	20.0%	25.0%	19.5%	16.7%	20.0%	40.0%	26.2%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	100.0%	75.0%	100.0%	83.3%	75.6%	69.4%	90.0%	100.0%	59.5%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	0.0%	8.3%	0.0%	8.3%	14.6%	19.4%	0.0%	0.0%	19.0%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	8.3%	9.8%	11.1%	10.0%	0.0%	21.4%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	99.9%
NUMBER OF CASES	2	12	5	12	41	36	10	5	42	165

TABLE 8

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FOSTER MOTHER'S OCCUPATION AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	FOSTER MOTHER'S OCCUPATION									TOTAL
	HOMEMAKER	PROFESSIONAL	PERSONAL & SERVICE	SKILLED	UN/SEMI-SKILLED	OTHER	UNEMPLOYED/RETIRED/DISABLED	NOT ASCERTAINED	NO FOSTER MOTHER	
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	14.3%	20.0%	15.2%	0.0%	42.9%	5.6%	0.0%	14.3%	16.7%	14.6%
SEXUAL ABUSE	13.1%	60.0%	9.1%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	14.3%	50.0%	16.4%
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	25.0%	0.0%	24.2%	0.0%	14.3%	11.1%	0.0%	14.3%	16.7%	20.6%
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	20.2%	20.0%	18.2%	100.0%	0.0%	33.3%	50.0%	42.9%	0.0%	21.8%
TOTAL LIKELY	72.6%	100.0%	66.7%	100.0%	57.2%	83.3%	50.0%	85.7%	83.3%	73.3%
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	13.1%	0.0%	15.2%	0.0%	28.6%	11.1%	25.0%	14.3%	16.7%	13.9%
COULDN'T TELL	14.3%	0.0%	18.2%	0.0%	14.3%	5.5%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.7%
TOTAL	100.0%	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%	100.1%	99.9%	100.0%	100.1%	100.0%	100.0%
NUMBER OF CASES	84	5	33	1	7	18	4	7	6	165

TABLE 9

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
IN HOME AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	MEAN NUMBER OF CHILDREN		
	X	SD	N
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	3.96	1.73	24
SEXUAL ABUSE	4.41	2.62	27
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	4.21	1.68	34
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	3.47	1.68	36
TOTAL LIKELY	3.98	1.94	121
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	3.44	1.41	23
COULDN'T TELL	3.57	1.57	21
TOTAL	3.86	1.83	165

TABLE 11

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEAN NUMBER OF YEARS HOME  
LICENSED AND TYPE OF MALTREATMENT

TYPE OF MALTREATMENT	MEAN NUMBER YEARS HOME LICENSED		
	X	SD	N
NEGLECT AND EMOTIONAL ABUSE	4.96	4.99	24
SEXUAL ABUSE	4.77	5.61	27
MINOR PHYSICAL ABUSE	5.21	4.99	34
SEVERE PHYSICAL ABUSE	3.94	3.30	36
TOTAL LIKELY	4.70	4.58	121
NO MALTREATMENT LIKELY	5.00	4.41	23
COULDN'T TELL	4.85	4.50	21
TOTAL	4.76	4.52	165

TABLE 12

ANALYSIS OF SEXUAL ABUSE AS AGAINST ALL OTHER CATEGORIES OF MALTREATMENT:  
 LOG-LINEAR MODEL COMPARING MARIATAL STATUS (M), PRESENCE OF FOSTER PARENTS'  
 OWN CHILDREN IN THE HOME (N), AND FOSTER MOTHER'S EMPLOYMENT STATUS (E).

MODEL	$\chi^2$	D.F.	P	CHANGE IN $\chi^2$
{MNE} {S}	14.09	7	.05	—
{MNE} {M} {S}	4.58	6	.60	9.51
{MNE} {N} {S}	14.05	6	.03	.04
{MNE} {E} {S}	12.99	6	.04	1.10
{MNE} {MN} {S}	4.58	5	.47	.00
{MNE} {ME} {S}	3.87	5	.57	.71
{MNE} {EN} {S}	12.94	5	.02	1.15
{MNE} {MNE} {S}	3.87	4	.42	.00

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- American Humane Association. National Analysis of Official Child Neglect and Abuse Reporting. Annual Report, 1980. Denver: American Human Association, 1981.
- Bailey, K.D. Methods of Social Research, New York: The Free Press, 1978.
- Bender, B. "Self Chosen Victims: Scapegoating Behavior Sequential to Battering," Child Welfare LV(6): 417-422, 1976.
- Bolton, F. et al. "For Better or For Worse? Foster Parents and Foster Children in an Officially Reported Child Maltreatment Population," Children and Youth Services Review, 3 (1-2), 1981, pp. 37-53.
- Bush, M. "The Public Purposes of Case Records," Children and Youth Services Review, VI: 1-18, 1984.
- Dawson, R. "A Study of the Incidence and Nature of Abuse in Foster Care in Ontario," presented at the Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies, 1983.
- Geismore, L.L. "family Disorganization: A Sociological Perspective, : Social Casework 59(9): 545-550, 1978.
- Gelles, R.J. "Violence Toward Children in the United States." American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 48(4): 580-592, 1978.
- Gil, D.G. "Unraveling Child Abuse," American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 45(3): 346-356, 1975.
- Gil, E. Prevention of Abuse and Neglect of Children in Out-of-Home Care. San Francisco: San Francisco Abuse Council, 1979.
- Green, A. "Self Destructive Behavior in Battered Children," American Journal of Psychiatry, 135 (5); 579-582, 1978.
- Green, Arthur, et al. "Child Abuse: Pathological Syndrome of Family Interaction," American Journal of Psychiatry, 131(8): 882-886, 1974.
- Horejsi, C.R. Foster Family Care: A Handbook for Social Workers. Missoula, Montana: University of Montana, 1978.
- Kadushin, A. Child Welfare Services. New York: MacMillan, 1980.
- Kempe, C.H. "Sexual Abuse: Another Hidden Pediatric Problem", Pediatrics, 62(3): 382-389, 1978.
- McFadden, E.J. Fostering the Battered and Abused Child. Ypsilanti: Eastern Michigan University, 1978.
- McFadden, E.J. Preventing Abuse in Foster Care. Ypsilanti: Eastern Michigan University, 1983.

- McFadden, E.J., Ryan, P., Wiencek, P. "Abuse in Family Foster Homes: Characteristics of the Vulnerable Child," paper presented at the International Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Sidney, Australia, 1986.
- Miller, F. Protection of Children in Foster Family Care, New York: Vera Institute of Justice, 1982.
- Parke, R.D. "Socialization into Child Abuse: A Sociological Interactional Perspective," in Law, Justice and the Individual in Society, June Tapp and Felice Levine (eds.), New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1977.
- Pelton, L.H. ed. The Social Context of Child Abuse and Neglect. New York: Human Sciences Press, 1981.
- Ryan, P. Fostering Discipline. Ypsilanti: Eastern Michigan University, 1983.
- Ryan, P. "Survey on Abuse and Neglect in Foster Care," Impact, Summer 1-2, 1983.
- Spinetta, J.J. and Regler, D. "The Child-Abusing Parent: A Psychological Review," Psychological Bulletin, 77(4): 296-304, 1972.
- Strauss, M.A., "Cultural and Social Organizational Influences on Violence Between Family Members," Configurations: Biological and Cultural Factors in Sexuality and Family Life, R. Prince and D. Barrie (eds.) New York: D.C. Heath, Lexington Books, 1974.
- Tobias, D. The Foster Care Pyramid: Factors Associated with the Abuse and Neglect of Children in Foster Boarding Homes. New York: Human Services Administration, 1982.
- Vera Institute of Justice. Foster Home Child Protection. New York: Human Resource Administration, 1981.
- Vesteral, J. "Psychological Mechanisms in Child Abusing Parents," Family Violence: An International and Interdisciplinary Study. John M Eckelaar and Sanford Koty (eds.). Toronto: Butterworths, 1978.
- Warren, B. Mandatory Training Requirements: Survey of States Impact 1:1, 1981.
- Webb, E.J., D.T. Campbell, R.D. Schwartz, L. Sechrest and J.B. Grove. Non-reactive Measures in the Social Sciences. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1981.

EXHIBIT A

NVRS Validation Pretest Design:

A Quasi-Experiment Involving Two Factors:

		Other Psychiatric Disorder	
		Present	Absent
<u>PTSD</u>	Present		
	Absent		

The four cells of the design are operationally defined as follows:

- (1) PTSD present, other Axis I disorder present - Person currently meets the DSM-III criteria for PTSD and for one or more other DSM-III Axis I disorders;
- (2) PTSD present, other Axis I disorder absent - Person currently meets the DSM-III criteria for PTSD but does not currently meet the criteria for any other DSM-III Axis I disorder;
- (3) PTSD absent, other Axis I disorder present - Person never met the DSM-III criteria for PTSD but does currently meet the criteria for one or more other DSM-III Axis I disorders;
- (4) PTSD absent, other Axis I disorder absent - (This group was recruited from the community with the assistance of local veteran organizations, not from patient populations) - person never met the DSM-III criteria for PTSD and does not currently meet the criteria for any other DSM-III Axis I disorder.

Subjects certified for inclusion then underwent a five hour survey interview conducted by an experienced (nonclinical) survey research interviewer. This interview covered subjects' military experience, history of psychiatric symptoms, history of health and mental health service utilization, and related topics. The interview contained four measures and aimed at identifying PTSD: (1) a fully structured diagnostic PTSD interview (D-PTSD) aimed at assessing the criterion symptoms of PTSD that was developed by the research team in the style of the Diagnostic Interview Schedule (DIS), (2) a checklist of PTSD symptoms, (3) the Mississippi Scale for Combat-Related PTSD (M-PTSD), and (4) the Impact of Event Scale (IES). Additionally, subjects were asked to complete form AX of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), which provided the Fairbank-Keane PTSD scale. A total of 225 (93%) of the certified subjects completed the survey interview, and 130 (58%) also completed the MMPI. The response rate for the MMPI was substantially lower than for the interview itself because it was a "leave behind"--i.e., upon completion of the survey interview the interviewer left it with the respondent with instructions to complete and mail it back in its postpaid envelope. It was decided to handle the MMPI in this fashion in order to reduce somewhat the burden on respondents.

### III. FINDINGS

Exhibit B presents selected demographic characteristics of the total study sample, and separately for cases and noncases of PTSD. Subjects were virtually all male Vietnam theater veterans, mostly white (about 80%), and mostly in their late thirties to early forties (mean age about 39). The majority were currently married (about 56%) and currently working (about 60%). Most enlisted in the armed forces (75%) and served in either the Army (60%) or Marine Corps (about 25%). About half characterized their Vietnam service as "mostly combat", while more than 40 percent described it as "mostly combat support".

Exhibit C presents the mean MMPI clinical and validity scale profiles for the four diagnostic subgroups of subjects defined by the design: (1) PTSD plus another disorder, (2) PTSD only, (3) other disorder only, and (4)

Exhibit C

Mean MMPI Profiles (T-Scores) for NVVRS Validation Pretest Subjects, by Group

Group	(N)	?	L	F	K	Hs	D	Hy	Pd	Mf	Pa	Pt	Sc	Ma	Si
1	(57)	41.6	47.7	81.6	44.5	76.1	89.4	72.4	77.7	63.8	79.2	82.5	48.1	67.2	65.7
2	(14)	42.2	48.7	71.4	48.6	62.6	71.7	61.9	68.9	61.8	66.2	65.1	43.3	61.3	58.4
3	(14)	41.0	50.4	69.2	52.1	64.0	73.4	64.6	74.9	64.3	66.6	69.4	60.5	58.6	60.4
4	(33)	41.6	48.9	54.1	57.2	55.4	59.5	58.9	62.9	60.6	58.8	58.1	55.9	57.3	49.8

Legend:

- Group 1 = PTSD plus
- 2 = PTSD only
- 3 = other disorder only
- 4 = no disorder

Exhibit D

Relative Diagnostic Accuracy of PTSD Measures

Measure	Percent Correctly Classified	Kappa	Sensitivity	Specificity
M-PTSD Scale	88.9	.753	94.0	79.7
D-PTSD Scale (sum of positive items)	87.5	.714	95.5	72.6
PTSD Checklist	84.9	.672	88.3	78.9
D-PTSD Scale (scored nosologically using DSM-III)	83.5	.639	87.2	72.6
MMPI (Fairbank-Keane Scale)	81.5	.605	90.1	68.8
Impact of Event Scale	81.6	.565	91.7	61.8

Legend:

Percent Correctly Classified is the percent of the entire sample (true cases and true noncases) that are correctly classified by the survey measure.

Kappa is a measure of the extend of agreement between two assessments corrected for the effects of change. (Kappas above .75 are considered to indicate excellent agreement, those between .40 and .75 fair to good agreement, and those below .40 poor agreement.)

Sensitivity is the percent of "true" cases that are classified as cases by the survey measure.

Specificity is the percent of "true" noncases that are classified as noncases by the survey measure.